(a) whether any assessment was made on the success or otherwise DTH project of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements of the project and the number of users of DTH;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Doordarshan and the income generated; and

(d) the rationale behind to carry private TV Channels on DTH without carriage fee?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharti has informed that an internal assessment made by them, based on the news reports and market sources, indicates the sale of an estimated 2 million receiver systems since the launch of DD Direct+ service on 16th December, 2004

(c) Rs. 34.26 crore has been spent so far. There is presently no income generation from the service.

(d) The rationale is to enhance the popularity of this service and make it broad based catering to different categories of viewers.

Undesirable telecasts by cable network

4114. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a lot of undesirable telecasts, particularly with regard to children are carried through cable television network,

(b) whether Government would launch a cable network in the country and carry only censored channels/programmes that could be viewed by all including children; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider inviting private operators to launch such cable network?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Concerns have been expressed from time to time about telecasts unsuitable for children. All programmes and advertisements carried in the cable service are required to adhere to the Programme Code

and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, *inter alia*, prohibits programmes which offends against good taste or decency and prescribes that:

- Care should be taken to ensure that programmes meant for children do not contain any bad language or explicit scenes of violence.
- Programmes unsuitable for children must not be carried in the cable service at times when the largest numbers of children are viewing.

Advertising Code prescribes that advertisement which:

- endangers the safety of children or creates in them any interest in unhealthy practices or shows them begging or in an undignified or indecent manner shall not be carried in the cable service.
- Indecent, vulgar, suggestive, repulsive or offensive themes or treatment shall be avoided in all advertisements.

(b) Government has no proposal to launch any such cable network. Doordarshan, the public service broadcaster, already telecasts number of programmes suitable for viewing by all, including children.

(c) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Violence and crimes in films and serials

†4115. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the films and serials being made at present are encouraging violence and sex which is adversely affecting the young generation and crimes and being encouraged;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of films and serials encouraging violence and sex produced during the last three years, year-wise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.